

STORIES FROM FOOTBALL'S PAST

HOW PIGEONS TOOK THE ORIGINAL FOOTBALL TWEET



1. PIGEON POST

How do you follow football when you're not at a match? Watch TV? Check social media? Long before that was invented, fans relied on some very clever animals - **homing pigeons!**

Back then, the only place for football news was **newspapers** - but reporters didn't have laptops or phones. Instead, they carried pigeons! Match reports were written on pieces of paper, folded up and tied to the pigeons' legs.



2. BIRD BRAINS

Homing pigeons are very clever birds that can find their way home over long distances. After the reporter released them, the pigeons flew all the way from the stadium back to their home - called a **pigeon loft** - at the newspaper. Fans waited outside the office for the pigeons to arrive and the sound of flapping wings created great excitement. Finally, fans could find out their **team's result**. With their coo-coo bird call, the pigeons had delivered the original football tweet!

NEWS DELIVERED ORIGINAL ALL TWEETS



And now for today's results!



3. LATEST TECH

By the time radio was invented, pigeons were no longer needed. The first **radio commentary** was broadcast in 1927, for a match between Arsenal and Sheffield United. Football arrived on **television** in 1938 with the broadcast of an England v Scotland international. Scotland won 1-0, and Tommy Walker scored the first ever goal on TV. But few fans had TVs back then, so not many could watch it. This season, fans can watch 184 Premier League matches on TV, plus hundreds more matches from other leagues around the world! We still read newspapers and listen to the radio, but we can also get instant football news and results on phones and tablets, and follow our favourite footballers on social media. We don't rely on pigeons, and the only tweets are on Twitter!

